

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05729 01 OF 02 121056Z
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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4510
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USLO PEKING
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BERLIN 5729

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, US, GE, GW, WE, CH
SUBJECT: SED CC VIEWS ON US/GDR RELATIONS

USMMARY: APUL MARKOWSKI, HEAD OF THE SED CC INTERNATIONAL SECTION,
SPOKE IN POSITIVE TERMS APRIL 7 ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF
US/GDR RELATIONS. HE WAS ALSO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTRUE
COURSE OF RELATIONS, BUT DID NOT APPEAR TO EXPECT MAJOR
DEVELOPMENTS SOON, INCLUDING THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. HE
WAS MODERATE IN HIS CRITICISM OF BONN IN BRIEFLY DISCUSSING
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05729 01 OF 02 121056Z

FRT/GDR RELATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. DURING A NINETY-MINUTE MEETING APRIL 7 AT SED CC HEAD-
QUARTERS WITH CHARGE AND EMBOFF, PAUL MARKOWSKI, HEAD OF
THE SED CC'S INTERNATIONAL SECTION, SPOKE IN POSITIVE
TERMS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR GOOD US/GDR RELATIONS.
MARKOWSKI, WHO DID MOST OF THEALKING, ANSWERED

QUESTIONS WILLINGLY. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY "AMBASSADOR" MARTER, HEAD OF THE WESTERN CAPITALIST DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA, AND BY ONE ALBRECHT, HEAD OF THE US, UK DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION AND FORMER GDR CHARGE IN LONDON.

US/GDR RELATIONS

2. RESPONDING TO OUR FIRST QUESTION, MARKOWSKI SAID US/GDR RELATIONS WERE "NOT AT ALL BAD." "PROGRESS" HAS BEEN MADE THUS FAR, PARTICULARLY IN TRADE, AND BOTH SIDES HAD SHOWN "A REALISTIC APPROACH" TO BILATERAL ISSUES. MARKOWSKI FELT THAT WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED THUS FAR WAS POSITIVE, IN LIGHT OF THE PREVIOUS ALMOST 30 YEARS WITHOUT RELATIONS.

3. MARKOWSKI SAID THE GDR WAS FOR AN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH US. THE US WAS IMPORTANT TO THE GDR, HE SAID, AND EMPHASIZED THE GDR WAS NOT AFRAID TO DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH THE US. FOR MARKOWSKI THERE WERE ALLEGEDLY NO LIMITS ON HOW FAR US/GDR RELATIONS COULD DEVELOP, AS FAR AS THE GDR WAS CONCERNED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE GDR'S KEEN INTEREST IN DEVELOPING TRADE WITH THE US, AND SAID THE GDR WAS ALSO FOR AN EXPANSION OF CULTURAL RELATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE.

4. MARKOWSKI TOUCHED ON HIGH-LEVEL US/GDR CONTACTS AS A WAY OF MOVING RELATIONS FORWARD. HE ASSERTED THAT, IN COMPARISON WITH GDR RELATIONS WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, OUR RELATIONS HAD DEVELOPED IN A "BACKWARDS" FASHION THUS FAR. THE GDR HAD HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 05729 01 OF 02 121056Z

GREAT BRITAIN, ITALY, AND EVEN WITH THE FRG, FROM WHICH SPECIFIC STEPS IN ALL AREAS OF RELATIONS HAD FOLLOWED. IN CONTRAST, THE US AND THE GDR HAD GROPED IN THE DARK THUS FAR, WITH EACH SIDE DISCOVERING AND ASSESSING THE OTHER, AND DEVELOPMENTS IN SPECIFIC AREAS HAD TAKEN PLACE AS IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY DID NOT EXIST.

5. MARKOWSKI FELT A VISIT TO THE US BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT WOULD BE HELPFUL, AS WOULD A VISIT OF A HIGH LEVEL STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO EAST BERLIN. HE ASSERTED THAT PROGRESS COULD THEN COME QUICKLY IN OTHER AREAS. IN RESPONSE, THE CHARGE NOTED THAT NUMBER OF ITEMS WERE PRESENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE US AND THE GDR, THAT MOVEMENT IN THESE AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST COULD CREATE A GOOD BASIS FOR SUCH VISITS, BUT IT WAS BEST THAT THESE STEPS BE TAKEN FIRST.

6. ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION MATTER, MARKOWSKI ADMITTED

THAT THE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION WAS A POLITICAL ISSUE FOR THE GDR. HE NOTED ONLY IN PASSING THE LINKAGE OF GDR TRADE OFFICES TO A CONSULAR CONVENTION, SAYING HE WASN'T

SURE WHAT THE US WANTED IN THIS CASE. MARKOWSKI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A CONSULAR CONVENTION WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO REGULATE PRACTICAL CONSULAR MATTERS, AND ASSERTED BOTH SIDES SHOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE THEIR TIME ON THE AGREEMENT. HE FELT IF RELATIONS DEVELOPED IN OTHER AREAS, A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BECOME EASIER. MARKOWSKI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE US POSITION ON CITIZENSHIP AND NOTED THAT IT WAS CONVENIENT FOR THE US TO ARGUE SIMPLY THAT, FROM ITS PRACTICE, A CONSULAR CONVENTION WAS A PURELY TECHNICAL AGREEMENT. HE SAID THE GDR COULD ALSO ARGUE FROM PRECEDENT, SINCE WITH GREAT BRITAIN, AUSTRIA, AND FINLAND IT HAS SIGNED AGREEMENTS THAT TREATED THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 BERLIN 05729 01 OF 02 121056Z

CITIZENSHIP QUESTION.

7. IN DISCUSSING THE CONSULAR CONVENTION FROM THE GDR STANDPOINT, MARKOWSKI ASSERTED THE SED POLITBURO WAS SEIZED OF THE ISSUE. THE MATTER OF WHEN AND HOW THE GDR WOULD MAKE ITS VIEWS KNOWN WOULD DEPEND ON POLITICAL FACTS, ACCORDING TO MARKOWSKI. HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE AWARE THAT WE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR ALMOST A YEAR FOR A GDR RESPONSE TO OUR COMPOSITE DRAFT OF A CONSULAR CONVENTION. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S REMARK THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO RESOLVE THE CONSULAR CONVENTION ISSUE AND THAT THE GDR APPEARS WILLING TO PROCRASTINATE, MARKOWSKI ASSERTED THIS WAS NOT SO, BUT GAVE NO INDICATION WHEN GDR MIGHT COME FORWARD WITH ITS PROPOSED LANGUAGE.

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05729 02 OF 02 121240Z
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1585

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BERLIN 5729

8. ON HUMANITARIAN CASES, ALBRECHT AND MARKER ASSERTED THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THIS AREA AND THAT IT WAS NO LONGER A PROBLEM IN OUR RELATIONS. MARKOWSKIN WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF RELATIONS IMPROVED, MORE AND MORE CASES WOULD BE SOLVED SO THAT IN FIVE YEARS OR SO HUMANITARIAN CASES WOULD NO LONGER BE A PROBLEM IN US/GDR RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO MARKOWSKI, AS LONG AS CASES WERE SOLVED, IT DID NOT MATTER TOO MUCH IF THE APPLICANTS HAD TO WAIT SEVERAL YEARS OR ONLY SEVERAL MONTHS. CHARGE TOOK ISSUE WITH MARKOWSKI, NOTING THAT IT CERTAINLY WOULD MAKE DIFFERENCE TO PERSONS INVOLVED AND THAT IT WOULD BE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05729 02 OF 02 121240Z

OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO HAVE MORE ORGANIZED PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH SUCH CASES AND TO CUT DOWN ON TIME INVOLVED IN RESOLVING SUCH CASES. MARKOWSKI DID NOT, HOWEVER, RESPOND TO THESE POINTS.

FRG/GDR RELATIONS

9. MARKOWSKI CRITICIZED THE FRG CLAIM TO REPRESENT ALL GERMANS AND ITS REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE A SEPARATE GDR CITIZENSHIP. ASKED WHETHER HE FELT THE FRG POSITION ON THIS QUESTION HAD HARDENED SINCE THE BASIC AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, MARKOWSKI SAID THERE HAD BEEN "NO IMPROVEMENT." HE DID NOT CLAIM THE SITUATION HAD GROWN WORSE FROM THE GDR POINT OF VIEW.

10. HE ALSO DENIED THAT THE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION WAS AN

INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ISSUE IN FRG/GDR RELATIONS.
COMMENT: COMPARED WITH THE RECENT STATEMENT OF MFA
FRG SECTION CHIEF SEIDEL TO CHARGE, AND HONECKER'S
TREATMENT OF THE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION IN SAARBRUCKE
ZEITUNG INTERVIEW, MARKOWSKI TENDED TO PLAY DOWN
THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION.
HE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ISSUE WAS NOT NECESSARILY
AN IMPORTANT OBSTACLE IN FRG/GDR RELATIONS AND THAT THE
GDR WOULD NOT PLAY IT UP EXCESSIVELY END COMMENT)
MARKOWSKI FELT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO FULFILL THE FRG/GDR
TREATIES SIGNED THUS FAR BUT DID NOT SPECULATE ON
POSSIBLE NEW STEPS IN FRG/GDR RELATIONS.

11. MARKOWSKI SAID HE VIEWED THE CURRENT CDU TREND
IN WEST GERMANY WITH CONCERN AND FELT THAT A REVIVAL
OF GERMAN REVANCHISM WOULD ONLY AWAKEN FEAR IN OTHER
WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE QUOTED DEGAULLE'S
REMARK, "I LOVE GERMANY SO MUCH THAT I WANT TO SEE TWO
OF THEM." AND SAID THE US SHOULD BE CONCERNED THAT
THE FRG WAS BECOMING MORE CONSERVATIVE AT A TIME WHEN
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PAGE 03 BERLIN 05729 02 OF 02 121240Z

OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE MOVING TOWARD
SOCIALISM. WHILE STATING HIS PREFERENCE FOR AN SPD
GOVERNMENT IN BONN, MARKOWSKI WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE
CURRENT BALANCE OF POWER IN EUROPE LIMITED WHAT THE
FRG COULD DO VIS-A-VIS THE GDR. HE SAID ANY FRG GOVERNMENT
WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE GDR AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE
THAT A CDU GOVERNMENT WOULD BRING NO BASIC CHANGES. HE
ALSO NOTED THAT BOTH SIDES PROFITED FROM THE RELATION-
SHIP, MENTIONING THE CURRENT 8.4 BILLION MARKS OF INNER-
GERMAN TRADE, AND IMPLIED THAT THE GDR'S FUTURE WAS
ASSURED THROUGH THE STRENGTH OF THE SOVIET UNION.

NEW GDR TREATIES

12. MARKOWSKI SAID THAT GDR'S NEW FRIENDSHIP TREATIES WITH
HUNGARY AND POLAND WERE NECESSARY DUE TO THE FACT THAT
THE GDR WAS NOW INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED. HE NOTED THAT
THE NEW TREATIES NO LONGER CONTAINED PREVIOUS REFERENCE
TO GERMAN REUNIFICATION, AND THAT THIS WAS A REFLECTION
OF EXISTING REALITY. HE SAID THE GDR PLANNED TO SIGN
SIMILAR TREATIES WITH BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND
MONGOLIA THIS YEAR. THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A NEW AGREE-
MENT WITH BUCHAREST BECAUSE THE CURRENT TREATY TOOK
ACCOUNT OF THE PRESENT SITUATION.

13. MARKOWSKI NOTED THAT THE NEW TREATY WITH HUNGARY
INCLUDED REFERENCE TO "SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM" BUT
SAID THE TERM WAS SPOKEN OF IN PUBLIC ONLY INFREQUENTLY

SINCE IT APPLIED ONLY TO EASTERN EUROPE. INSTEAD, GDR IDEALOGISTS SPENT MORE TIME DISCUSSING "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM", WHICH HAD INTERNATIONAL APPLICABILITY. MARKOWSKI ACKNOWLEDGED WITH A SMILE THAT ONLY POLITBURO MEMBER STOPH SEEMED INCLINED TO DISCUSS THE TERM "SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM" IN PUBLIC, AS HE DID DURING THE RECENT KADAR VISIT TO EAST BERLIN.

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PAGE 04 BERLIN 05729 02 OF 02 121240Z

14. COMMUNIST CHINA

MARKOWSKI EXPECTED NO CHANGE IN GDR/PRC RELATIONS UNTIL CHINA PUT ITS DOMESTIC HOUSE IN ORDER. HE FELT THAT IF CHINA DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH TENG HSIA PING, THEY CERTAINLY DID NOT KNOW HOW TO FORM A CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY. HE SAID IT WAS NOT ADVISABLE FOR THE CHINESE TO SEEK AN ANTI-SOVIET ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN, WEST GERMANY AND THE US SINCE INTERNATIONAL POWER REALITIES MADE IT IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THE INTERESTS OF THE SOCIALIST STATES.

15. MARKOWSKI BROKE OFF THE CONVERSATION AT THIS POINT, NOTING HE HAD TO FULFILL HIS PARLIAMENTARY "DUTIES" BY ATTENDING THE SECOND SESSION THAT DAY OF THE VOLKSKAMMER. HE SAID THAT HE HAD DONE MOST OF THE TALKING AND THAT THE NEXT TIME HE WOULD ASK THE QUESTIONS AND WE WOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO REPLY. WE AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

16. COMMENT: MARKOWSKI'S POSITIVE COMMENTS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF US/GDR RELATIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH SIMILAR REMARKS MADE RECENTLY HERE BY OTHER GDR OFFICIALS. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WAS JUST AS VAGUE ABOUT POSSIBLE MOVEMENT BY THE GDR ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, BUT LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WOULD SEEK--FROM THEIR STANDPOINT--AN APPROPRIATE POLITICAL OCCASION OR TIME WHEN THEY WOULD INDICATE A READINESS TO REOPEN THE NEGOTIATIONS. A FULL ACCOUNT OF MARKOWSKI'S COMMENTS ON OTHER SUBJECTS FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.
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